

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARAMA 00127 171559Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----171601 080062 /41

R 171301Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3158

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0127

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EINV, NS  
SUBJ: REYNOLDS OVERSEAS POLITICAL PAYMENTS

REF: PARAMARIBO 0078

1. REFTEL HAS INCORRECT INFORMATION ABOUT FORMER MINISTER PRESIDENT SEDNEY WHICH NEEDS TO BE CORRECTED. SEDNEY IS NOT DECEASED. AFTER LOSING OUT POLITICALLY IN 1973, HE IS SAID TO HAVE GONE TO HOLLAND BUT TO HAVE RETURNED AGAIN TO SURINAM RECENTLY AND IS NOW A PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SURINAM. A MEASURE OF THE OBSCURITY INTO WHICH HE HAS RETIRED IS THE FACT THAT NEIGHER OF THE OFFICERS WHO WORKED ON REFTEL HAS EVER MET SEDNEY, HEARD HIM REFERRED TO OR SEEN HIS NAME IN A NEWSPAPER, EXCEPT AS A FIGURE OF THE PAST.

2. SEDNEY WAS ORIGINALLY A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL PARTY OF SURINAM (NPS) WHICH IS THE PARTY OF THE PRESENT PRIME MINISTER, HENCK ARRON, AND SERVED AS MINISTER OF FINANCE IN THE NPS CABINET WHICH TOOK OFFICE IN 1958. HE DID NOT APPEAR IN THE NEXT CABINET IN 1963, HOWEVER, AND IN 1967 LEFT THE NPS TO JOIN THE NEW PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) WHICH APPARENTLY SPLIT OFF FROM THE NPS. IN THE 1969 ELECTIONS, THE HINDUSTANI

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARAMA 00127 171559Z

VHP OF J. LACHMON WON THE LARGEST TOTAL OF VOTES, WITH THE NPS SECOND AND THE PNP, THEN IN COMBINATION WITH THE PSV AND KTPI, THIRD. AS FORMATEUR OF THE CABINET LACHMON CHOSE SEDNEY AS MINISTER PRESIDENT, THUS ESTABLISHING IN EFFECT A HINDU-STANI-CREOLE COALITION WITH THE NPS LEFT OUT. IN THE 1973 ELECTIONS, HOWEVER, THE PNP COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED, AND THE NPS, TOGETHER WITH ITS COMBINATION PARTNERS PSV AND KTPI, AS WELL

AS THE PNR OF BRUMA, WON A MAJORITY OVER THE VHP.

3. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT WOULD BE THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES IF THE INFO IN PARA 1 STATE 23077 WERE TO BE MADE PUBLIC BEFORE THE COMING ELECTIONS. THERE WOULD BE NO POLITICAL EFFECT ON SEDNEY AND THE PNP SINCE THEY HAVE COMPLETELY LEFT THE POLITICAL STAGE. THERE WOULD BE NO DIRECT EFFECT AGAINST ARRON, SINCE SEDNEY HAD LEFT ARRON'S PARTY BEFORE ARRON GAINED ANY PROMINENCE IN IT, AND THE TWO WERE OPPONENTS IN 1973. THERE MIGHT BE SOME ADVERSE EFFECT AGAINST LACHMON, SINCE HE WOULD BE SHOWN TO HAVE PICKED A MINISTER PRESIDENT WHO LATER TOOK A POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION, BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, SEDNEY IS A CREOLE AND NOT A HINDU-STANI AND, UNLESS LACHMON WERE SHOWN TO HAVE HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONTRIBUTION, THE MATTER MIGHT BE CONSIDERED MORE A CREOLE PROBLEM THAN ONE FOR LACHMON, WHO HAD TRIED TO BRIDGE THE ETHNIC GAP IN SETTING UP A GOVERNMENT.

4. ALL OF THE ABOVE REINFORCES THE EMBASSY'S CONCLUSION THAT THE USG OUGHT TO TAKE NO INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME TO RELEASE THE INFO IN PARA 1 OF STATE 23077. IT MAY WELL BE THAT THESE COMPLEXITIES ARE THE REASON WHY THE VARIOUS ACTORS ON THE POLITICAL SCENE HAVE CHOSEN, SO FAR, NOT TO MAKE ANYTHING MORE OF THIS SUBJECT.

ZURHELLEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, BRIBERY, INVESTIGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PARAMA00127  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770057-0208  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PARAMARIBO  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770232/aaaabcbab.tel  
**Line Count:** 87  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 0a9f17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS, STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS, STADIS  
**Reference:** 77 PARAMARIBO 78  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3296099  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REYNOLDS OVERSEAS POLITICAL PAYMENTS  
**TAGS:** EINV, PINR, NS, REYNOLDS, (SEDNEY, JULES)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/0a9f17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009